

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:  
a catalyst support having tubular passages through which exhaust gases flow in an axial direction;  
a coating layer formed on a surface of the catalyst support, the coating layer being composed of a zeolite, a refractory inorganic oxide, and a first catalyst metal loaded on a surface of the refractory inorganic oxide; and  
a second catalyst metal loaded on at least one of a front stage part of the coating layer at an upstream end of the exhaust gas flow and a rear stage part of the coating layer at a downstream end of the exhaust gas flow,  
wherein an axial length of the front stage part and the rear stage part are each from one-third to one-tenth of a length of the catalyst.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the coating layer comprises:

an HC-adsorbing layer composed of the zeolite, the HC-adsorbing layer being formed on the surface of the catalyst support; and

a catalyst-containing layer composed of the refractory inorganic oxide and the first catalyst metal, the catalyst-containing layer being formed on the HC-adsorbing layer.

4. (Previously Presented) The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the first catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

5. (Previously Presented) The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the second catalyst metal comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Pt, Pd and Rh.

6. (Previously Presented) The catalyst for purifying exhaust gases according to claim 1, wherein the refractory inorganic oxide is alumina.

7. (New) A catalyst for purifying exhaust gases, comprising:  
a catalyst support having tubular passages through which exhaust gases flow in an axial direction;  
a coating layer formed on a surface of the catalyst support, the coating layer being composed of a zeolite, a refractory inorganic oxide, and a first catalyst metal loaded on a surface of the refractory inorganic oxide; and  
a second catalyst metal loaded on at least one of a front stage part of the coating layer at an upstream end of the exhaust gas flow and a rear stage part of the coating layer at a downstream end of the exhaust gas flow,  
wherein the coating layer is formed so that that the zeolite and the refractory inorganic oxide on which the first catalyst metal is loaded are mixed.